

releasing a catch which permits the starting of machinery that is actuated by an instinctive impulse. In the higher animals the ganglia are collected into the spinal cord or the brain: in the lower they form less complicated systems, sometimes very loosely connected. But we must remember that this elaboration of sense organ, nerve and ganglion is by no means essential. The microscopic protozoa, which are regarded by an evolutionist as his remotest ancestors, possess no organs whatever for sensation. They are simply small masses of nitrogenous jelly, so far as can be ascertained of like texture throughout, except for a small spot where there has been some sort of concentration into a nucleus. Yet all of them are sensitive to light and to touch. Some of them can even distinguish blue light from light of other kinds. They can recognize their peculiar food, and certain of them construct the most beautiful little shells, the designing of which by a man would be taken to show much delicacy of conception. Plants are, of course, very sensitive to light; some of them, such as the sensitive mimosa and a species of balsam, violently resent touch, and two species (Drosera and Dionaea), the leaves of which are able to digest captured insects, exhibit in divergent manners very delicate sensibilities that are of use to them in distinguishing flies from other objects. A study of natural

history shows us. in fact. that
sensation is a pro-
perty of life. not a function of any
description of
organ.

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Did our sensory impressions
originate on the
exterior surface of our bodies there
might be some
prima facie ground for the idea that
they represent things as they are—that there
exist, in fact,